

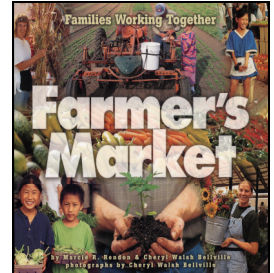
Minnesota Storytime
Reading Guide

Title: *Farmer's Market: Families Working Together*

Author: Marcie R. Rendon & Cheryl Walsh Bellville

Photographer: Cheryl Walsh Bellville

**Publisher and
Copyright Date:** Carolrhoda Books, 2001



**Connection to
Minnesota:** Minnesota author, Minnesota publisher, Minnesota setting

Summary: This is a nonfiction story of two farm families from different backgrounds that grow and sell their produce at the farmer's market. Colorful photos and text depict a German American family that came to Minnesota in the 1890's and a Hmong American family that immigrated in the 1970's. The story explains their cultural uniqueness while emphasizing the similarities of all family members working together growing their crops and selling them at the farmer's market in St. Paul.

Suggested ages: 7-10

Tips for Reading:

- Allow plenty of time to read this book aloud as it is fairly long (48 pages).
- Point out the photographs and read the captions, as the photos tell the story extremely well.

**Questions
before reading:**

- Have you ever gone to a farmers' market? What do you remember about it?
- Does your family have a garden and grow any plants or vegetables?
- How many fruits or vegetables can you name that grow on trees, (e.g. apples) or on plants, (e.g. tomatoes), or that grow underground (e.g. potatoes)?
- Do you have any relatives who are, or were, farmers?
- What chores do you have at your home to help your family?

**To Introduce
this story say:** We're going to read a true story about two farm families, one German American and the other Hmong American, that sell their crops at the farmers' market in St. Paul.

**Questions
After Reading:**

- Did you notice how the whole family, from the kids to the elders, worked in this story?
- What kind of work did the kids do in this story?
- How are the two families the same, and how are they different?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Culture:**
- Take a trip to a farmers' market so the children can see the diverse farm families in Minnesota and the crops they produce and sell.
- Language:**
- Explain some new or unfamiliar words, using the glossary of terms found in the book (page 46).
- Science:**
- Plant and grow radishes and lettuce, as all the information and a list of materials are provided in the book (page 44).
- Other:**
- Develop a chore list for the family/child care center to give each person a special task each day.
- Suggestions for English Language Learners:**
- Focus more on the photos to explain the book.
 - Point out how all extended family members are involved in the growing and selling of the crops.
 - Discuss the similarities between the two farm families despite language differences and length of time in Minnesota.
- Related Books:**
- ***Two Old Potatoes and Me*** by John Coy, illustrated by Carolyn Fisher (Alfred A. Knopf, 2003)
 - ***Farmers Market*** by Carmen Parks, illustrated by Edward Martinez (Harcourt, 2002)

